

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARINE SERGEANT
ADAM C. SCHOELLER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor my constituent, Marine Sergeant Adam C. Schoeller of Boiling Springs, and to express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

On January 14, 2016, Sgt. Schoeller and 11 of his fellow patriots went missing off of the coast of Oahu during a late night training session when the two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters they were travelling in crashed. These honorable Marines tragically lost their lives while in the line of duty, and the American people are forever grateful for the service they provided to their country.

Sgt. Schoeller graduated from Boiling Springs High School in 2008 and enlisted to serve his country with the United States Marine Corps immediately afterward. Deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom, Sgt. Schoeller's leadership and bravery distinguish his outstanding service to our nation, as evidenced by the over 200 people who attended a vigil in his honor held at the Boiling Springs Clock tower and Veterans Memorial. Sgt. Schoeller received various honors such as the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal—decorations which are indicative of his dedication to our country.

Sgt. Schoeller is survived by his wife, Samantha Wickel-Schoeller, whom he recently married on July 4, 2015. Samantha, his father Ralph, his mother Laurie, sister Shannon, and brother Collin were all able to travel to Hawaii through the Semper Fi Fund following this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and service of Sgt. Adam C. Schoeller, for his selfless heroism and dedication to his family, community, and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state that I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 4, 2016 due to district events our office is hosting in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows:

On the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 766, I would have voted "Yea."

On final passage of H.R. 766, the Financial Institution Customer Protection Act, I would have voted "No."

RECOGNIZING THE LUNAR NEW
YEAR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 8, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lunar New Year and to applaud the significant contributions made by Chinese Americans to American life and culture.

Today, February 8, marks the first day of the "Year of the Monkey."

The Lunar New Year, or "Nian," is a tradition that has been celebrated for more than a thousand years by the Chinese and other persons of Asian ancestry.

The Lunar New Year is cause for celebration in communities all across our country but might I say that no city does it better than my home city of Houston, which will be hosting the Annual Lunar New Year Houston Celebration this coming weekend.

Celebrants will be treated to a variety of festivities, including parades, festivals, art exhibits, and musical performances.

Mr. Speaker, Americans of Asian Pacific ancestry have positively influenced our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their communities.

Asian Americans have enriched our culture and economy and made significant contributions in every area of American life from the arts and humanities, to the natural and social sciences, to business and the economy, in government, sports, the military, and technology and innovation.

Notable Chinese Americans who have distinguished themselves in the field of the arts and humanities include the two-time Academy Award winning cinematographer, James Wong Howe; Ang Lee, the Academy Award winning director; Maya Lin, the architect who designed the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial; I. M. Pei, the famous architect and designer of the Louvre Pyramid; Amy Tan, the best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club*; Yo-Yo Ma, the world-renowned cellist; and the legendary Bruce Lee, who revolutionized the martial arts film genre.

In the field of business, American life has been enriched by the contributions of Steve Chen, the co-founder of YouTube; Jen-Hsun Huang, the co-founder and CEO of NVIDIA, the computer graphics card company; Min H. Kao, co-founder of Garmin, the GPS software giant; William Wang, the founder and CEO of Vizio; and Jerry Yang, cofounder of Yahoo.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Chung made history as the first Chinese American woman to co-anchor a major network's national news broadcast, as did Norman Bay, the first Chinese American United States Attorney; and Thomas Tang, the first Chinese American federal judge.

Many contemporary Chinese Americans have risen to occupy some of the most important positions in the nation, including my colleagues, JUDY CHU and GRACE MENG, the first and second Chinese-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; Dr. Steven Chum, Nobel laureate in Physics and United States Secretary of Energy from 2009–2013; Hiram L. Fong, the first U.S. Senator of Chinese ancestry; Ed Lee, the Mayor of San Francisco; and Gary Locke, former Secretary of Commerce, Ambassador to China, and only Chinese American ever to serve as a Governor.

Mr. Speaker, Kurt Lee was the first Asian American Marine Corps officer and he was followed by John Liu Fugh, the first Chinese American officer to be promoted to the rank of Major General in the United States Army and Coral Wong Pietsch, the first female Chinese American Army General; and it is a source of great pride that the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to Francis Wai, so far the only Chinese American to have been so honored.

In the fields of science, engineering, and medicine, Chinese Americans have made significant contributions that have fundamentally changed the way we live and work, including those of Min Chueh Chang, the co-inventor of the first birth control pill; Charles Kao, the 2009 Nobel laureate in Physics who pioneered the development and use of fiber optics in telecommunications; Yuan-Cheng Fung, the founder of modern biomechanics; and NASA astronauts Leroy Chiao and Edward Lu.

Mr. Speaker, according to most recent data reported by the Census Bureau, there are more than 423,609 businesses owned by Chinese Americans generating \$142.8 billion in economic output towards the U.S. economy, along with creating over 780,000 jobs.

As the Member of Congress from the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to represent a district rich in cultural and ethnic diversity and with a vibrant Chinese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than four million Chinese-Americans in the United States and Texas is home to more than 167,000 of them; of this latter number, approximately 25 percent, or 43,940, Chinese-Americans live in Harris County, making it the tenth largest community of persons of Chinese heritage in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese-Americans have made much progress in the United States since May 10, 1860, the date the first transcontinental railroad was completed.

That massive construction project transformed our country for the better and could not have been completed had it not been for the labor of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the enormous progress made challenges still remain for persons of Chinese ancestry, particularly the nation's antiquated immigration system which needs to be reformed to make it fairer and more humane.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year helps us to remember how much our country has benefited from the energy, creativity, and service of Chinese Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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